



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STEPPED-UP CONTRABAND EFFORT LEADS TO A NUMBER OF RECENT ARRESTS

***Vigilant officers, probing IUU detectives nab both visitors and staff
possessing or attempting to deliver drugs and tobacco to inmates***

TOWSON, MD (November 4, 2005)---The Maryland Division of Correction's (DOC) enhanced effort to stop the flow of contraband into prisons has recently led to a number of criminal charges and pending administrative sanctions against visitors and staff. DOC is a division of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS).

On November 1, a 27-year old correctional officer at the Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup was arrested and charged with attempting to deliver marijuana and "ecstasy" pills to inmates. That officer faces a variety of criminal charges.

The day before, an officer at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in Jessup was discovered to have marijuana in her vehicle on the prison parking lot. That officer was charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance.

In Hagerstown on September 26, a DOC K-9 officer noticed a visitor to the Maryland Correctional Training Center turn around and return quickly to her car upon seeing the officer and his dog. The dog alerted to drugs, and a search of the car turned up concealed marijuana, which the visitor admitted she was hoping to bring in to an inmate.

On October 12, a sergeant at the Maryland House of Correction in Jessup observed a nurse (employed by the prison's medical services provider) hand an inmate a large bag. The bag contained tobacco, which has been banned in all state prisons for several years.

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“The unlawful entrance of contraband into our prisons will not be tolerated, and we intend to use all available resources to deal with the problem,” says Commissioner of Correction Frank Sizer.

Similar heightened enforcement efforts at the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services, which handles arrestees in Baltimore City, has resulted in other contraband seizures at the Central Booking and Intake Center and Baltimore City Detention Center.

DPSCS Secretary Mary Ann Saar praised the vigilance of the correctional staff and K-9 officers. “Anyone visiting one of Maryland’s prisons, as well as our own employees, should be acutely aware that the department’s Internal Investigative Unit, working with law enforcement and local state’s attorneys, will vigorously pursue criminal charges against anyone caught possessing contraband or attempting to deliver it to inmates,” said Secretary Saar. Attempting to deliver contraband to inmates in Maryland may result in substantial fines and up to 10 years in prison.

In addition to potential criminal charges, employees face the loss of their jobs and a permanent ban from similar state employment.

The increased contraband control effort includes significant technology and internal intelligence upgrades, but largely depends upon the diligence of the correctional staffs, whose efforts played key roles in the cases cited above.

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